THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 1st July 1957.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Women's Welfare Organizers.

* 3 *Q*.—SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Women's Welfare Organizers in the State;

(*b*) the number of illiterate women made literate by them;

(*c*) the number of Social Education and District Social Centres for women in the State; and

(*d*) the number of illiterate women made literate by the above organizations?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister): (*a*) Fifty-one Women's Welfare Organizers are employed in the present Madras State.

(*b*) Five thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine illiterate women have been made literate by the above 51 Women's Welfare Organizers during the last 3 years.

(*c*) There are no Social Education Centres exclusively for women. No Social Centres on a District-wide basis are organized.

(*d*) Does not arise.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Sir, is literacy the aim or real education?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It is both.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: What steps have the Government taken to see that these women do not lapse into illiteracy?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There is another question, Question No. 6, which deals with this. I will answer it then.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: When do the Government consider a woman literate? What is the test by which they measure it?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: As soon as they are able to read a few letters or a few words, one understands them to have become literates.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY : I wonder what the aim of this is in these jobless days. Are the Government preparing a job-chart showing the jobs available?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I will answer that when we take up the next question.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is it not a fact, Sir, that this experiment was tried on men and was found unsuccessful and that, therefore, the Government resorted to another policy of educating only people below 18 years or so under the adult education scheme? Now, what is the purpose of this scheme in regard to women?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No. It is true that after a campaign of adult literacy, we found that the people relapsed into illiteracy because of lack of follow-up systems. But it is not true to say that the Government have given up the endeavour to spread adult literacy.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, there is too much of women's welfare activities in the State and could not our Government stop further women's welfare activities and start men's welfare activities in the State? (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Opinion differs on this question and, as a matter of fact, there is a feeling that there is not much of women's welfare activity in the State.

Publications of newspapers useful to adult literates

* 6 Q.—SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether newspapers useful to the adult literates in the "Job-Charts" of the Social Education Organizers are published by the Government;

(b) if so, the number of such newspapers, whether daily or weekly; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (a) & (b) No newspapers are published by Government. But a monthly magazine "Grama Nalam" which contains information relating to the Development activities in the various areas and also useful articles of general interest is being published by the Government.

(c) There are a number of newspapers in Tamil and English and, therefore, there seems to be no need for the Government to publish any such newspapers.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : இந்த கிராம நல பத்திரிகை ஏழை ஜனங்களுக்குக் கிடைப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் என்ன வழி செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் ?